AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-31. (Cancelled).

32. (New) A moving image encoding apparatus comprising:

means for separating one moving image sequence into a lower layer having a low frame rate and an upper layer having a high frame rate;

lower layer encoding means for encoding the whole image in said moving image sequence in said lower layer; and

upper layer encoding means for encoding a partial area of the image in said moving image sequence in said upper layer; and further comprising:

area conversion means for expanding the parts image area in said upper layer frame so as to include the parts image area in said lower layer frame; and

area information encoding means for encoding the area information in the upper layer frame indicating the parts image area expanded by said area conversion means.